

REPORT NO.

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USSR.

USSR Army - Office Personnel Matters

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SOURCE

1. Q. What is the duration of an officer's tour of duty in the Far East?  
A. A tour of duty in the Far East is supposed to be limited to three years. In actual practice, tours are often extended to four or five years and depend upon the timely arrival of replacements.
2. Q. What is the normal tour with the Group of Occupation Forces, Germany?  
A. Three years. This policy is strictly adhered to in all but a few instances.
3. Q. What are the exceptions?  
A. General officers, MGB personnel, certain officer specialists, and jet pilots. In the last two categories, lack of replacements limit compliance with the three year policy. In 1951, a large number of antiaircraft artillery officers were offered promotions before their regular turn if they would voluntarily extend their service in Germany. As all were anxious to return to the USSR, however, there were no take-ers.
4. Q. How frequently, and at what times of the year, are officer personnel rotated from Germany to the USSR?  
A. Rotation occurs annually, with officers leaving during the period 15 October - 1 January.
5. Q. What is the normal overlap between the arrival of replacements and the departure of officers for the USSR?  
A. A maximum of two weeks.
6. Q. To what extent are officers knowledgeable of their specific assignment within the USSR prior to their departure from Germany?  
A. Replacement officers arriving in Germany are sent to the pool at Frankfurt am Oder where they are given assignments to their new unit. Replacements are usually on a man-for-man basis with the replaced officer returning to the unit in the USSR to which his replacement had previously been assigned. When the replacement is posted

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to Germany from a school, the replaced officer is assigned to an officer's pool in Moscow.

25X1A [ ] comment: Previous reports have indicated that orders returning an officer to the USSR never state the unit to which he is transferred. This report indicates that the officer does have an opportunity to learn of his new assignment prior to leaving Germany.

- Q. Is there established policy limiting the length of time an officer may serve in the same unit within the USSR?
- A. When Voroshilov was Commissar of Defense, there was no set limit. Officers spent eight, nine and more years in the same assignment with the result that many started businesses in their local community, and military discipline suffered. When Marshal Timoshenko replaced Voroshilov in 1940, three years was adopted as the normal duration of a tour with any particular unit.
- Q. When this three-year tour is up and an officer is to be transferred to another unit within the USSR, will he usually remain within the same Military District or be transferred to another Military District?
- A. With the exception of the Moscow Military District, which does not cooperate in such matters, there is a fairly definite pattern of transfers. Officers assigned in the Baltic regions are customarily exchanged with officers serving in the Caucasus. Officers from the Ukraine and Belorussia areas are exchanged with those serving in the Urals, and those serving in Germany are frequently replaced by officers who have completed their tours in the Far East. The Moscow Military District, as a "select spot", does not conform as closely to the fixed-tour principle.
- Q. Do all officer personnel transfer orders originate at the Main Personnel Directorate of the War Ministry or do lower echelons have the authority to order transfers of officer personnel?
- A. All transfer orders resulting from the rotation policy originate in Moscow. Higher commanders may order transfer of officers within their area of jurisdiction during a tour of duty. For example, an Army Commander in GOFG may transfer officers within the subordinate units of his army during their tour of duty in Germany, but he has not jurisdiction over transfers to and from the USSR. All orders affecting general officers must originate in Moscow.
- Q. During World War II, did the Soviet Army follow the practice of designating units by the name of their commanding officer as a security measure? If so, at what echelons?
- A. Yes. This practice was followed from separate battalion through army level and also within the various units to designate sub-units.

25X1A [ ] Comments: Other sources have indicated this cover is still being used during maneuvers and tactical problems. This source states that "Chast" (Unit or formation) is used regardless of whether the unit in question is a battalion or an army. Thus "Chast Ivanov" gives no indication of the size of the unit commanded by Ivanov.

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